

Parks & Recreation

The Darien Parks & Recreation Department is responsible and has jurisdiction for the following day-to-day operations:

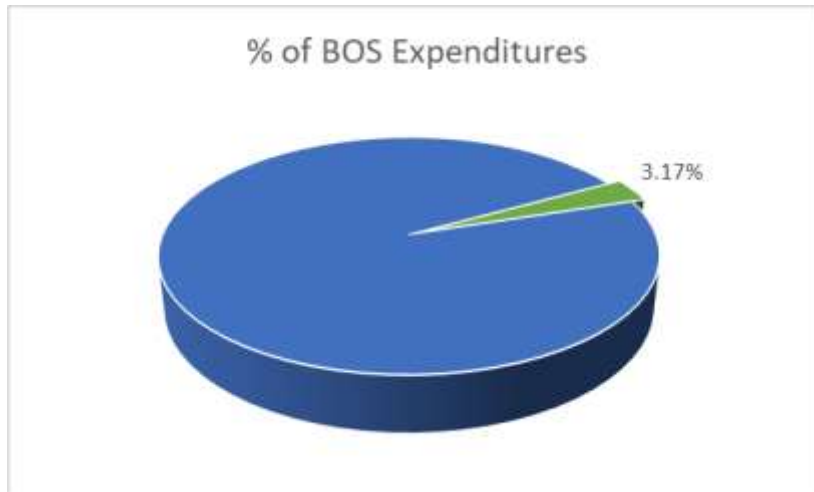
The Parks Maintenance personnel maintain approximately 218 acres of parkland (210) acres, including the town's Highland Farm property, the Firemen's drill tower landscape, the Police Department grounds, and the Hecker property. They also maintain the following facilities:

- Weed Beach: security gatehouse, bathhouse, beachfront, playground, concession stand, paddle hut and paddle courts, tennis courts, the West Picnic area, and picnic area at the Weed Beach Meadow.
- Pear Tree Beach: security gatehouse, bathhouse, concession stand, picnic area, boat launch, gazebo, and the beachfronts to both the left and right of the bathhouse.
- Cherry Lawn: restroom facilities, two playgrounds, gazebo, pond, tennis courts, community gardens, basketball court, irrigated baseball, and soccer fields as well as walking trails along the woods.
- McGuane Park: three irrigated baseball fields, playground, concession stand, picnic area.
- Baker Park: irrigated multi-use field, playground, walking trail, and picnic area.
- Selleck Woods (28 acres) and Woodland Park (64 acres) Nature Preserves: These two properties have active "Friend Groups" that help the town keep these trails in clean, safe conditions. They work closely with our department and are great stewards of the woods bringing any issues to our attention.
- Town Hall and Holahan fields: 10 acres that consist of 1 baseball field, 2 softball fields, 1 regulation soccer field and 2 practice soccer fields.

Our Department is also responsible for all organized programs and events open to the public. Most programs and activities operate on a self-sustaining basis. In FY21, we generated over \$1,000,000 in gross revenue to offset our budget from the following areas:

- Beach permit sales and nonresident daily pass fees
- Paddle hut and picnic rentals
- Paddle tennis operations
- Kayak rental and kayak storage racks at Pear Tree Beach and Weed Beach
- Beach concessions' annual fee
- Park reservations and rentals
- Event and program revenue
- Seasonal fees from youth sports leagues

Parks & Recreation



[Click here to explore historical and proposed revenues for this department](#)

[Click here to explore historical and proposed expenditures for this department](#)

Accomplishments 2020-2021

- Managed the Basketball Project at Cherry Lawn and the new basketball court opened just before Thanksgiving 2020
- Replaced two playscapes in the 18 mo. – 5 year old playground at Cherry Lawn Park
- Painted the interior off both bathrooms, lifeguard rooms and concession at Pear Tree Beach
- Worked diligently with a small group of residents that fundraised over \$45,000 to convert the single tennis court at Cherry Lawn Park into four new pickleball courts. The new pickleball courts opened for play in June 2021
- Planted three Sycamore trees at Pear Tree Beach and six new Maple trees at McGuane Park to provide additional shade

Accomplishments 2021-2022

- Our park crew built two additional kayak racks for our beaches. This now provides four kayak racks at Pear Tree Beach and four at Weed Beach that brought in \$24,000 in revenue to off-set our budget
- Helped direct and guide the new seasonal Patrolling Guard position for all our parks and beaches, and implemented daily reports to keep the top administration and P&R Commission Chair informed

Parks & Recreation

- Re-painted and re-lined all six tennis courts at Weed Beach
- Completed the Tilley Pond Park project – widening and replacing the asphalt pathways thru the park
- Managed the dredging of the small sediment pond at Tilley Pond Park
- Managed the new beach concessionaire and all the concession equipment that the town purchased in 2020
- Working with the Parks and Recreation Commission to implement a Standards of Care document on all of our parks

Objectives 2022-2023

- Research ways to make our department and parks more sustainable
- Have the exterior of the bathhouse, concession and paddle buildings painted at Weed Beach
- Constructing a new boardwalk and walking/running/biking paths in and around the 23+ acres at Weed Beach
- Conduct a statistically valid town wide survey surrounding the Pear Tree Improvement project
- Replace the surface and playground equipment at McGuane Park that is over 20 years old
- Construct three new post-tension tennis courts at Cherry Lawn Park – replacing the current 30 year old courts

Five-Year Outlook

Our five-year outlook will include the following objectives:

- Continue to use our Master Parks Plan as a guide to improve our facilities and maintain the infrastructures that we currently have
- Use our new Standards of Care document that the Park & Recreation Commission plans on completing in 2022
- Maintain, schedule, and provide new programs and events on the Highland Farm property and all Town parks
- To replace playgrounds and surface material at Cherry Lawn Park and Baker Park
- To continue being more sustainably friendly within all our parks
- Accomplish improvements at Pear Tree Beach

Parks & Recreation

Revenues	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Adopted Budget	2021-22 Revised Budget	2022-23 Proposed
Charges For Services	604,012	844,739	1,675,696	1,139,000	1,139,000	596,000
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-	-	-	275,000
Miscellaneous	35,907	30,344	8,069	35,500	35,500	38,000
Total	639,919	875,083	1,683,765	1,174,500	1,174,500	909,000

Expenditures	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Adopted Budget	2021-22 Revised Budget	2022-23 Proposed
Personnel	960,283	1,015,589	1,076,927	1,086,382	1,118,130	1,129,732
Contractual Services	272,131	603,797	1,107,811	868,817	868,817	411,350
Materials & Supplies	75,379	70,467	90,886	83,425	83,425	102,750
Equipment & Facilities	2,532	3,136	936	7,000	7,000	9,000
Total	1,310,325	1,692,990	2,276,559	2,045,624	2,077,372	1,652,832

Staffing	2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023 Proposed	
	<i># of positions</i>	<i>FTE's</i>	<i># of positions</i>	<i>FTE's</i>	<i># of positions</i>	<i>FTE's</i>	<i># of positions</i>	<i>FTE's</i>	<i># of positions</i>	<i>FTE's</i>
Dir Parks & Recreation	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00
Assistant Director	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00
Supervisory	2	2.00	2	2.00	2	2.00	2	2.00	2	2.00
Administrative	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00	1	1.00
Parks Maintenance	6	6.00	6	6.00	6	6.00	6	6.00	6	6.00
Part Time	1	0.50	1	0.50	1	0.50	1	0.50	1	0.50
Total	12	11.50	12	11.50	12	11.50	12	11.50	12	11.50

Parks & Recreation

Estimate of total personnel costs based on FY2023 wages and benefits package. Medical and dental expenses are allocated based on number of benefit eligible positions. Only salaries are budgeted in the department. All other personnel costs are budgeted in Employee Benefits.

Base Wages	971,947
Medical & Dental	249,225
FICA	74,354
Other	4,593
Retirement	81,383
Total	<u>\$1,381,501</u>

Parks & Recreation

Performance Measures	Actual 2017- 2018	Actual 2018- 2019	Actual 2019-2020	Actual 2020-2021	Projected 2021-2022	Projected 2022-2023
Social media contacts	1,075	1,859	2,652	3,181	5,500	6,500
Paddle Hut rental revenue	\$10,500	\$11,625	\$8,550	\$4,350	\$12,000	\$8,000
Weed Beach Festival attendance	1,000	1,500	996 views +TV	1500+TV	2,500	3,000
Customer service rating/survey/program satisfaction rating	95%	95%	94%	95%	95%	95%
Volunteers, hours worked and dollars saved	10/50 hrs \$600	39/152 \$1,824	35/108 \$1,296	47/112 \$3,528	65/350 \$6,300	75/400 \$7,000
Total Program Participants	3545	3,833	2,726	5,793	3,900	5,500
Number of programs and events offered	N/A	N/A	Programs 143 Events 5 canceled 3	Programs 144 Events 6 Canceled 6	Programs 145 Events 10	Programs 146 Events 12
Annual attendance of all Community Events	1,600	4,798	4,375	2,100	9,000	10,000
Number of annual QAlerts and percentage of tree related calls	32 Alerts 41%	23 Alerts 26%	27 Alerts 15%	36 Alerts 47%	40 Alerts 35%	40 Alerts 45%
Facility Rental Revenue	\$18,000	\$17,233	\$19,455	\$27,214	\$20,000	\$30,000